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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

DATA ON ALBANIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY
AND SILKWORM RAISING

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources. 7

According to Aussenhandels Nachrichten of 25 October 1952, the Albanian textile industry fulfilled successfully its program for the first 9 months of 1952. In comparison with the same period of 1951, the industry produced seven times more linen cloth of the most varied types. State-operated stores and cooperatives offered to buyers in 1952 more than 28 types of solid-color and printed cotton cloth, most of which were produced in the Stalin Textile Combine, the paper stated. Furthermore, the industry's workers supplied customers with quantities of goods larger than those provided for by the plan, 5 percent more knitted goods such as knitwear, stockings, and other items which were formerly imported.

The paper added that during the years since liberation, the textile industry in Albania has undergone important development. Great combines and factories were built, and the capacity of existing factories, which were equipped with modern machines, was expanded. During 1951, textile production was 15 times higher than in 1938, the paper continued, and the First Five-Year Plan calls for a notable increase in production of textiles. By the end of 1955, production of cotton goods is to be 18 times greater than the amount produced in 1950. During the Five-Year Plan, woolen fabrics are also to be manufactured in Albania.(1)

In an earlier issue, Aussenhandels Nachrichten reported that by the end of the Five-Year Plan, wool and cotton production in Albania was to be 19 times greater in 1951 than in 1950. The paper added that during the Two-Year Plan (1949 - 1950), textile output rose to 3.8 times the 1938 level.(2)

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CONFIDENTIALStalin Textile Combine

According to the 24 May issue of Aussenhandels Nachrichten, the erection of the modern Stalin Textile Combine at Tirana, equipped with Soviet machinery, has laid the foundation for large-scale growth of a domestic textile industry in Albania, which the government has promoted by every possible means.

The paper reported that the production capacity of the Stalin Textile Combine is 20 million meters of cotton fabric per year, and that the combine is in a position to meet the entire demand of the Albanian population. It stated that 25 kinds of colored fabrics were being produced, but that during the second quarter 1952, this number was to rise to 60.(2) However, as mentioned above, the Aussenhandels Nachrichten article of 25 October stated that only 28 types of solid-color and printed cotton cloth were actually offered to buyers in 1952.(1)

The 24 May issue of Aussenhandels Nachrichten also reported that the employees of the combine pledged to produce 125,000 meters of fabrics above the quantity set in the Five-Year Plan.(2) Both the 24 May and the 25 October issues stated that Albanian workers were successfully engaged in the construction of a new factory for the production of woollens with an annual capacity of 900,000 meters, of a cotton mill, and of other textile establishments.(3,2)

On 27 May, Zeri i Popullit stated that technical improvements have increased production. In 1951, one weaver operated two to four looms, the paper reported, but due to the voluntary work of Albanian youth and the aid of the USSR, the majority of the weavers could now operate eight to ten looms. Three young workers, who were handling 16 looms, had promised to handle 20 looms, the paper added.

The same issue of Zeri i Popullit reported that at first it took four workers to operate one machine in the spinning mill, but that now one worker suffices.

Some workers can even operate 1½ machines with 100 spindles, the paper added. One girl, who came to the combine when machines were being set up, now services 21 cotton combing machines, the paper continued.

Stakhanovite methods were spreading through all the units, Zeri i Popullit continued. Six more brigades had already been formed. One brigade member produced 1½ kilometers of thread in 8 hours. Improvements in weaving technique enabled the combine to fulfill the quarterly program ahead of schedule.

The same issue of Zeri i Popullit also stated that the workers promised to produce 25,000 meters of goods over the planned amount for the second quarter 1952. In April they produced 1,000 meters more than the planned figure, using 25 colors.(3)

According to Bashkimi of 27 February, weavers in the Stalin Textile Combine began the production of flannel, which is more difficult than that of other types of cloth. The young workers were aided by Soviet technicians in producing a good quality of goods, the paper stated. All the flannel fabrics came up to expectations, according to the paper, and the combine was turning out six kinds of cloth.(4)

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On 19 April, Zeri i Popullit listed the three chief duties of the Communists and collectives in the Stalin Textile Combine. The duties are to fulfill the Five-Year Plan, keep their machinery in working order, and master new techniques. The paper added that in a recent meeting, the primary party organization of the combine criticized some combine members for permitting machinery to be damaged by not keeping strict control over workers under them. As a result of this carelessness, many tools were ruined and output was reduced. One example cited was that of an assistant engineer, Nazir Shkurti, who did not inspect the machinery regularly, thus permitting the wiring of a machine to burn out. The trade union committee was criticized, the paper continued, for not calling meetings of workers to familiarize them with the decisions of the party organizations and to carry on propaganda for socialist competition and agitation for youth organizations and collective work.

It was noted at the meeting, however, according to Zeri i Popullit, that machinery could not be fully utilized without competent foremen. The qualification of Communists and other workers was said to be still a great problem. The meeting also discussed the duty of directors of the combine to offer courses for unqualified Communists under the direction of Communists who had studied in the USSR. After it was discovered that one of the party members had not attended these courses regularly, he was summoned by the secretary of the primary organization, warned, and advised to pay more attention to the decisions of the primary organization on this problem, the paper continued.

After this meeting, the paper reported, the director of one section called a meeting of the workers to impress them with their responsibilities. Thereafter, regular inspections were introduced, greatly reducing the number of breakdowns.

This same issue of Zeri i Popullit stated that the trade union committee, besides calling a meeting of workmen to discuss breakdowns and damage to machinery, devoted considerable attention to socialist competition. It published in a newspaper a cartoon of a careless worker, as well as photographs of outstanding workers. Political work among the workers included information on the continuous aid by the USSR.

A qualification course attended by 80 workers was being given in the spinning unit, Zeri i Popullit added.

The paper stated that, as a result of these measures and by utilizing the Stakhanovite Voroshin method for servicing machinery and cleaning the working area, and the Levchenko-Mukhanov method for reducing production time, the April output was 250 percent greater than the November 1951 production, and the first-quarter plan was completed by 25 March 1952.(5)

Shkoder Textile Enterprise

According to Zeri i Popullit of 17 May, 92 workers of the Shkoder Textile Enterprise were applying eight Soviet methods. By application of these methods the enterprise saved 237,000 leks in an 11-month period. Such methods as the Levchenko-Mukhanov, Agafanova-Zhandarova, and high-speed tie-up of threads are in use. By the application of the Levchenko-Mukhanov method 60 workers saved 70,000 leks, the paper reported.

The same issue of Zeri i Popullit described the progress of a textile worker, Liri Kallogieri, who came to the textile enterprise as a young girl of 15. She was among the first workers to learn the Levchenko-Mukhanov method. She now uses more than five Soviet methods, runs two machines

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according to the Kovalev method, and follows Soviet experience in tying threads and preventing waste. Liri and 17 other young girls also take technological courses opened by the management, the paper stated. Her work has been so highly meritorious that she now has the title "Communist" and a medal from the Presidium of the People's Assembly. (6)

Zeri i Popullit wrote on 30 May that two weaving units of the Shkoder Textile Enterprise were competing with each other. They were able to produce 6,000 meters of cloth more than the planned amount. The best record in the contest, the paper continued, was that of a young woman weaver who fulfilled the April plan 17 days ahead of schedule and continued to exceed the weaving norms. Several leading workers also made excellent records, the paper concluded. (7)

Silkworm Raising

On 30 May 1952, Zeri i Popullit wrote that the raising of silkworms is traditional with the women of Kruje Rreth. In 1951, there were 800 grams of silkworm eggs. In 1952, there were 1,245 grams, 45 grams more than anticipated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The paper stated that the workers of the veterinary office under the rreth's party executive committees and the women's organization were devoting special attention to this field. Nineteen silkworm collectives with 71 women were formed. They distributed the eggs by 10 April 1952, and in May began the production of the first raw silk. The paper added that outstanding collectives were those of Gashe Qese, Yhunia Pistole, and Hane Deme. These three collectives showed great care in the protection of the worms from cold weather as well as in the abundant supply of mulberry leaves, the paper stated.

In 1951, according to Zeri i Popullit, one gram of eggs produced 2 kilograms of raw silk. Prior to 1951, production had been less than 1½ kilograms. Tane Veseli, who received 2 kilograms of silk from each gram of eggs, sold 17 kilograms of raw silk to the cooperative and received in return 31 meters of flannel, 6 kilograms of sugar, 6 kilograms of soap, and 6 liters of petroleum. (7)

SOURCES

1. Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 25 Oct 52
2. Ibid., 24 May 52
3. Tirana, Zeri i Popullit, 27 May 52
4. Tirana, Bashkimi, 27 Feb 52
5. Zeri i Popullit, 19 Apr 52
6. Ibid., 17 May 52
7. Ibid., 30 May 52

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